Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 191750Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1845

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 10035

EO 11652: NA TAGS: EFIN GR

SUBJECT: GREEK PARLIAMENT APPROVES 1976 GREEK BUDGET

REF: ATHENS 9550; ATHENS 8995; ATHENS 8730

- 1. PARLIAMENT APPROVED THE GREEK STATE BUDGET BY A MARGIN OF 165 TO 36 ON DEC 18 AFTER THREE DAYS OF DEBATE. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES VOTED AGAINST THE BUDGET, BUT ALL VOICED SUPPORT FOR INCREASED MILITARY EXPENDITURES (KKE EXTERIOR NEVERTHELESS ALSO VOTED AGAINST DEFENSE MINISTRY APPROPRIATIONS).
- 2. OPPOSITION LEADERS GENERALLY CONDEMNED THE BUDGET AS EXCESSIVELY CONSERVATIVE AND INADEQUATE TO SUFFICIENTLY STIMULATE THE ECONOMY. THEY CALLED FOR TAX REFORM TO BENEFIT LOWER INCOME GROUPS, AND GREATER EXPENDITURES ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.
- 3. GOG SPOKESMAN DEFENDED THE BUDGET ALONG THE LINES REPORTED IN REFTELS, THAT IT AIMED AT STIMULATING THE ECONOMY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY INFLATION AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSTRAINTS. COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS AND FINANCE MINISTER DEVLETOGOU SUMMED UP THE GOVERNMENTS DEFENSE ON THE FINAL DAY OF DEBATE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY STRESSED THE RELATIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE GREEK

ECONOMY IN 1975, AND THE STEPS TAKEN TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A PROGRESSIVE PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, DESPITE THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND ESSENTIAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

4. THE EMBASSY IS IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING A DETAILED ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE BUDGET. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: GOVERNMENT BUDGET, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

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